

610 Gateway Drive Mail Drop Y-04, North Sioux City, SD 57049-2000

Examiner Daniel L. Greene

Law Department Intellectual Property Mail Drop Y-04

U.S. Patent Office, Art Unit 3621 Dept/Co.: Fax: 703-872-9327 Phone: 703-306-5539 CC: Scott Charles Richardson, Reg. No. 43,436 From:

Date: February 25, 2003

605-232-2612 Fax:

Pages: - 8 -(Including Cover)

Phone: 605-232-1967 Official Pat. App. No. 09/467,994 RE:

MESSAGE:

FAX RECEIVED

Transmitted herewith under 37 CFR 1.8, please find:

To:

FEB 2 6 2003

an Amendment; and a Transmittal Sheet.

GROUP 3600

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR \$1.8. The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being transmitted, via facsimile, to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C., on the date indicated above and to the proper facsimile telephone number, shown above.

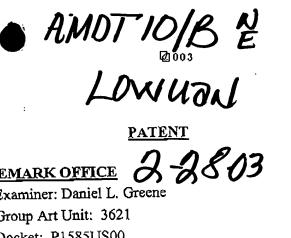
Name: Scott Charles Richardson

Signature: Sert Chorles cool

The information contained in this transmission is intended for use of the individual or entity named above. If reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original transmission to us at the above address via the U.S. Postal Service.

G	A	T	E	W	A	Y
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Please type a plus sign (*) Inside t Under the Paperwork Reduction Act or 1985, n		Approv U.S. Patent and Tradem spond to a collection of Information	PTO/SB/21 (08-00) ed for use through 10/31/2002, OMB 0651-0031 ark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE on unless It displays a valid OMB control number.				
		Application Number	09/467,994				
TRANSM	ITTAL	Filing Date	December 20, 1999	_			
FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)		First Named Inventor	Bruce YOUNG	_			
		Group Art Unit	3621				
		Examiner Name	Daniel L. Greene				
Total Number of Pages in Thi	s Submission	Attorney Docket Number	P1585US00	,			
	ENCL	OSURES (check	all that apply)]			
Fee Transmittal Form (for an		nent Papers Application)	After Allowance Communication to Group Appeal Communication to Board				
Fee Attached		g(s) ng-related Papers	of Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to Group				
Amendment / Reply	Petition	•	(Appeal Nation, Brief, Reply Snef)				
After Final	""	to Convert to a	Proprietary Information	ļ			
Affidavits/declaration(s)		onal Application of Attorney, Revocation	Slatus Letter	fficia			
Extension of Time Request	Chang Addres	of Attorney, Revocation e of Correspondence is	Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):				
Express Abandonment Request	Termir	nal Disclaimer	FAX RECEIVE	:h			
		st for Refund	LAY UEOFIA				
Information Disclosure Statemen	CD, N	umber of CD(s)	FFB 2 6 2003	<u></u>			
Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	Remarks		00010 000	4			
Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application			GROUP 360	٠.			
Response to Missing Part under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.5	3			·			
	GNATURE OF APPL	ICANT, ATTORNEY, OR	AGENT] .			
Firm or Individual name Scott Ch	Scott Charles Richardson, Reg. No. 43,436; Gateway, Inc., Customer #24333						
Signature Scr	Scrtt Chorles Richardon						
Date February	February 25, 2003						
	CERTIFI	CATE OF MAILING		7			
I hereby certify that this correspondence mail in an envelope addressed to: Committee of the correspondence of	Is being deposited with nissioner for Patents, W	the United States Postal Ser /ashington, DC 20231 on this	vice with sufficient postage as first class date:				
Typed or printed name				4			
Signature		Da	nte non the needs of the individual case. Any comment our, U.S. Palent and Tredemark Office, Washington	J			



S/N 09/467,994

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Bruce YOUNG

Examiner: Daniel L. Green

Serial No.:

09/467,994

Group Art Unit: 3621

Filed:

December 20, 1999

Docket: P1585US00

Title:

SYSTEM AND METHOD OF DISTRIBUTING

AND RETURNING PRODUCTS

AFTER-FINAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1,113

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Following the final Office Action dated November 25, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as indicated below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 12, 33 and 34 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims in the following manner, shown below in clean form. Marked-up versions of the amended claims are provided in the attached Appendix.

- 1. (Twice Amended) A product distribution and return system, comprising:
 - a product dispensed from a vending machine in one location;
- a return mailer dispensed with the product, wherein the return mailer is also a product case, the product returnable in the return mailer to a return center, the return center being in another location; and
- a label comprising an address of the return center and having an amount of postage sufficient to mail the product to the return center;

wherein said label is configured for being attached to the return mailer for returning the product to the return center or alternatively for being attached to a second return mailer if the product is not returned to the return center;

wherein a product rental fee is defined in a set of product rental terms, further wherein the product rental fee includes fees for non-compliance with the product rental terms;